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WorkSource Wenatchee Affiliate Awarded \$15,000 to Provide Services to Job Seekers with Language Barriers

WENATCHEE – WorkSource Wenatchee Affiliate was awarded \$15,000 by the Washington State Employment Security Department to provide computer training to job seekers with limited English skills.

“We live in a world of computers,” said Tomas Sandoval, the center’s operations manager. “Having even a basic familiarity with using a computer can make it easier to find work. But many in our community don’t have that.”

“Migrant workers and immigrants especially have trouble because of their limited formal education and difficulty understanding English. WorkSource created this class to help them overcome those barriers so they can find and keep jobs in today’s competitive market,” Sandoval said.

Classes will be taught at WorkSource by staff from the Washington Farmworker Investment Program, a branch of OIC of Washington. Instructors fluent in English and Spanish will teach participants beginning computer skills, such as how to use a mouse and create and save files, and later, how to search for jobs online and create a resume.

Sandoval said the goal is to help job seekers with limited English skills become comfortable using a computer on their own so that they can take full advantage of other services at WorkSource.

Classes are expected to begin in May and will be offered three evenings a week. To qualify, participants must claim unemployment benefits.

The \$15,000 allocated to Wenatchee is part of a \$100,000 U.S. Department of Labor grant received by Employment Security to distribute to local programs that assist people in finding work.

WorkSource Wenatchee Affiliate provides all the resources job seekers and employers need in one place. The center is located at 215 Bridge St. For more information, call (509) 665-6605 or visit the WorkSource Web site at <http://www.go2worksource.com>.

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